

a [first] data transceiver for inputting and retrieving a first set of vehicle identification data including said electronically readable indicia from said ticket;

a [second data transceiver] vehicle parking lot key station located at a vehicle parking facility remote from said [first] data transceiver for inputting and retrieving a second set of vehicle identification data;

a central processor including a file memory for storing said first and second sets of vehicle identification data; and

said [second data transceiver] vehicle parking lot key station outputting vehicle pick-up data for retrieval purposes in response to a vehicle retrieval command from said central processor.

2. (Amended) The system of Claim 1, further comprising a vehicle return station located remotely from said [first and second data transceivers] data transceiver and said parking lot key station and operatively connected to said central processor for initiating said vehicle retrieval command at said central processor.

3. (Amended) The system of Claim 1, further comprising a server interconnecting said [first] data transceiver, said [second data transceiver] parking lot key station, and said central processor via a communication link.

5. (Amended) The system of Claim 1, further comprising output means coupled to said [second data transceiver] parking lot key station for providing said second set of vehicle identification data to an attendant for vehicle identification and location purposes.

7. (Amended) The system of Claim 1, wherein said [first] data transceiver is a wireless handheld data transceiver including a scanner.

8. (Amended) The system of Claim 7, wherein said [first set of vehicle identification data] electronically readable indicia comprises bar code data read by said scanner.

12. (Amended) A method of systematically parking and retrieving a motor vehicle, comprising:

receiving a vehicle to be parked;

associating a ticket having electronically readable indicia with said vehicle;

entering vehicle identification data, and the electronically readable indicia,
into a central database;

parking said vehicle;

entering vehicle location data into the central database at a vehicle parking lot key station subsequent to said step of parking said vehicle;

receiving a vehicle retrieve command;

outputting vehicle retrieval data from said vehicle identification and location data [input] previously entered into the central database at a vehicle parking lot key station in response to said step of receiving said vehicle retrieve command; and

retrieving said vehicle in response to said step of outputting said vehicle retrieval data.

13. (Amended) The method of Claim 12, wherein said step of entering vehicle identification data comprises scanning bar code data from [a] the ticket associated with said vehicle into the central database.

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17. (Amended) The method of Claim 12, wherein said step of outputting vehicle retrieval data at a vehicle parking lot key station comprises printing said vehicle retrieval data at a key station in proximity to said parked vehicle.

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18. (Amended) A valet parking system, comprising:
a handheld data transceiver for inputting [and retrieving] a first set of vehicle identification data from a vehicle being parked;
a second data transceiver located at a vehicle parking facility remote from said first data transceiver for inputting [and retrieving] a second set of vehicle identification data from the vehicle after the vehicle is parked;
a central processor including a file memory for storing said first and second sets of vehicle identification data;
remote retrieval means operative for permitting vehicle retrieval from a site remote from said handheld data transceiver;
a server operatively linking said handheld data transceiver, said second data transceiver, said central processor and said remote retrieval means;
said second data transceiver including a printer for printing vehicle pick-up data for retrieval purposes in response to a vehicle retrieval command being generated by either said handheld data transceiver or said remote retrieval means and sent from said central processor; and
means for generating financial and employee performance evaluation reports based on a third set of data derived from said first and second sets of vehicle identification data.

2120. (Amended) In a valet parking system including a vehicle retrieval request station located remotely from a valet parking system staging area, a method of initiating retrieval of a parked motor vehicle, comprising the steps of:

receiving a vehicle retrieval request at the vehicle retrieval request station;
computing a vehicle retrieval time window to determine average vehicle retrieval time for a predetermined time period; and
displaying an expected vehicle retrieval time based on the vehicle retrieval time window at the vehicle retrieval request station[; and
displaying a customer assistance message at the vehicle retrieval request station in response to vehicle retrieval delays].

Please add new Claims 25-40 as follows:

1925. (New) The method of Claim 12, wherein said step of receiving a vehicle retrieve command comprises the step of receiving a vehicle retrieve command in response to the electronically readable indicia being re-entered into the central database.

26. (New) A computerized valet parking system, comprising:
a ticket associated with a vehicle being parked that has a set of unique electronically readable indicia;
a data transceiver for inputting a first set of vehicle identification data including said electronically readable indicia;
a central processor including a file memory for storing said first set of vehicle identification data;
a vehicle retrieval device located at a site remote from said data transceiver to allow said vehicle to be retrieved from one of a plurality of vehicle retrieval sites based

on a received vehicle retrieval command associated with said electronically readable indicia;
and

a server that operatively links said data transceiver, said central processor and
said vehicle retrieval device.

27. (New) The system of Claim 26, wherein said data transceiver comprises a
handheld data transceiver located at a vehicle staging area and coupled to said system by
said server through a wireless communication link.

28. (New) The system of Claim 27, further comprising means for generating
reports based on system operation over a predetermined time period.


29. (New) The system of Claim 28, further comprising means for downloading
said reports to a remote database on a periodic basis.

30. (New) The system of Claim 28, wherein said reports comprise system
accounting reports.

31. (New) The system of Claim 28, wherein said reports comprise employee
evaluation reports.

32. (New) A method for valet parking of vehicles, comprising:

- (a) providing a ticket to a customer for a vehicle presented by the
customer to a parking attendant for parking, said ticket having
electronically readable indicia thereon;

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- (b) storing the electronically readable indicia together with vehicle identification information into a computer memory;
 - (c) parking the vehicle at a parking location;
 - (d) storing parking location information into the computer memory;
 - (e) receiving a vehicle retrieval request generated in response to the electronically readable indicia on the ticket being read; and
 - (f) thereafter, prior to retrieving the vehicle for the customer, fetching the stored vehicle identification information and the parking location information associated with the electronically readable indicia from the computer memory.

33. (New) The method of Claim 32, further comprising the steps of:

- (g) providing visually observable data identifying the vehicle and the vehicle parking location based on step (f);
- (h) retrieving the vehicle from its parked location; and
- (i) presenting the vehicle to the customer.

34. (New) The method of Claim 32, wherein step (b) further comprises:
additionally storing the name of the customer, along with customer identifying information, into the computer memory; and

thereafter, determining whether the vehicle identification information has previously been entered into the computer memory and, if so, providing visually observable data indicating the name of the customer associated with the vehicle identification information so that the parking attendant can greet an old customer by name.

35. (New) The method of Claim 33, further comprising the steps of:

additionally storing in step (b) parking rate information into the computer memory regarding an applicable customer service charge; and

additionally providing a visually observable indication in step (g) about the customer service charge when the vehicle is retrieved.

36. (New) The method of Claim 32, further comprising the steps of:

- (g) additionally storing in step (d) employee identification data for identifying a parking attendant who parked the vehicle;
- (h) entering the employee identification data into the computer memory identifying the parking attendant who retrieved the vehicle; and
- (i) generating a management report associated with the data entered in steps (g) and (h).

37. (New) The method of Claim 36, wherein the management report includes data based on at least one of the following categories:

- (a) parking attendant identification information relating to who parked or retrieved a given vehicle;
- (b) the number of vehicles parked and retrieved by a given parking attendant;
- (c) duration of time worked by a given parking attendant;
- (d) total staging and parking time associated with a particular vehicle and parking attendant; and
- (e) total retrieval time associated with a particular vehicle and parking attendant.

38. (New) The method of Claim 32, further comprising the steps of:

using a handheld transceiver to read the indicia, enter given information associated with the indicia, and wirelessly transmit the indicia and information to the computer memory.

39. (New) The method of Claim 32, further comprising the step of:
transmitting data to a remote transceiver located in an area adjacent to the parked vehicle; and
using the transmitted data to provide the visually observable data in step (f).

40. (New) The method of Claim 32, further comprising the steps of:
providing a remote retrieval station at which the customer may present the ticket;
reading the indicia on the ticket at the remote retrieval station; and
initiating steps (e) and (f) whereby a customer can initiate retrieval of the vehicle at a location remote from the location where the vehicle is ultimately presented to the customer by the parking attendant.

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 were previously pending in the present application. Claims 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 12, 13, 17, 19 and 20 have been amended. New Claims 25-40 have been added. No claims have been cancelled. Thus, Claims 1-40 remain pending in this application. Applicant hereby requests the Examiner reconsider this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Applicant would initially like to thank the Examiner for the courtesy extended to Applicant's representative, David G. Posz, during an interview between the undersigned